in Haryana and necessary steps have been initiated in this regard.

"Investment by U.S. Companies in Biotreatment"

2426. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of U.S. companies have shown interest in investing in India in Biotreatment to help India contain the environmental degradation and also to improve agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the names of the U.S. companies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Three U.S. companies M/s 3—I System Inc., M/s Industrial Ecosystem Inc. and M/s D.D.H Enterprises held seminars early this year in 3 cities for promoting their technology through Indian counterparts. This programme was facilitated through United States Agency for International Development.

Thermal Power Plant at Dahanu

2427. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report appearing in the Economic Times of Sunday, the 5th February, 1995 under the caption 'Fighting the States comes easy for this radical';

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that the establishment of thermal power plant in Dahanu, north of Bombay, is likely to damage the orchards around the site; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to mitigate the grievances of the farmers in the area, which is known as ecologically fragile no-development zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government have reported that they are not flouting the Central Government directions issued under the Dahanu Notification.

(c) and (d) While according environmental clearance to this project, Ministry of Environment & Forests had considered all the related issues and stipulated various conditions and environmental safeguards to be implemented effectively by the project authorities. Implementation of the stipulated conditions by BSES is monitored by State Pollution Control Board.

Holding of Forest Land by Private/Public Companies

2428. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Private Limited or Public Limited companies are entitled to hold forest lands in their names;

(b) if so, what are the legal provisions under which they can hold;

(c) what is the extent to which they can hold this land;

(d) whether they can hold agricultural land and if so, to what extent; and

(e) under what provisions a number of teak plantation companies hold agricultural or forest land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) Private/Public Limited companies are not entitled to hold Government